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Winnipeg metro



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Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

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ICE, ICE, BABY!



The Forks Red River
Mutual Trail opened
for the season on
Monday. For photos,
see **metroNEWS**

Gavin Klassen, 4, and his grandpa (and Red River Mutual Trail CEO) Brian Esau give the trail a whirl on Monday afternoon.

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/FOR METRO

CONTRIBUTED



DIG AWAY, 'PEG

Why our city
columnist
wants you
to pick up a
shovel

DIVING IN
Sherbrook Pool reopens
after four years

BYE, KEVIN CHIEF
Popular MLA quits,
no word on byelection

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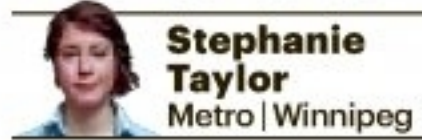
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Developer upset over dog park

RECREATION

Proposed site also drawing ire of tenants



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A local developer is frustrated that after a years-long struggle to build a \$75-million high-rise, the City of Winnipeg now plans to open a dog park next door.

Rubin Spletzer, CEO of Crystal Developers Ltd., calls the city's decision to open an off-leash pooch park beside Heritage Landing "insane," citing a list of concerns from traffic congestion to a loss of property values.

"How would you like to have a \$70-million building and you put a dog park beside it, right there. I don't think you would enjoy that. Neither do we," Spletzer told Metro in a recent interview about his 25-storey apartment complex at 300 Assiniboine Ave.

"If they're going to place it the way they designed it right it next to me, my whole building is going to lose about 10 per cent on value, which is around \$7 million."

"I will fight the city that the taxes have to then be reduced accordingly."

More specifically, he said a lot of design work went into ensuring the façade of the building overlooking the park complemented the site and met the city's requirements.

He calls it "annoying" that tenants looking outside a large window in the lobby and entertainment room will now see dogs running around.

Spletzer's concerns have resulted in delays to the dog

park opening, according to Coun. Mike Pagtakhan, who chairs the committee on protection, community services and parks.

"The city was wanting to hear what the concerns were and to see if we could allay some of those concerns," Pagtakhan said.

Last July, Mayor Brian Bowman — who campaigned on a promise to open an off-leash dog park downtown — announced that Bonnycastle Park had been picked as the future location of the off-leash area after public consultation.

At the announcement, the city said construction on park amenities — like new fences, waste bins and lighting — was supposed to start at the end of September or beginning of October and last up to four weeks.



There's a lot of tenants that already said if the city puts up that dog park in here, we're moving out.

Rubin Spletzer

Then last October, municipal communications manager David Driedger told Metro that after talking with different stakeholders, "it was determined that some design revisions had to be made and as a result we've run into some delays."

Pagtakan says Bonnycastle Park maintains the city's preferred location for the downtown off-leash dog site.

Spletzer, meanwhile, has little hope the city will make design changes that solve his

concerns.

"There's a lot of tenants that already said if the city puts up that dog park in here, we're moving out," he said, adding that since the apartment complex opened last month, there are 26 tenants in the building's 234 spaces.

Despite an open house and online survey about where a downtown dog park should go, Spletzer says the city didn't properly consult with neighbours of the park, many of whom are seniors.

He also questions the suitability of the location since seven of the high-rise buildings in the area do not allow pets.

"Now I know, dogs need a place to run around. And I know the mayor has promised somewhere, but why choose the most attractive park and destroy it for a dog park?"

Some of his concerns pre-date the dog-park plan, and involve an overall frustration with the city over what he characterizes as a years-long struggle to get the highrise built in the first place.

In 2008, the company got the go-ahead from the city to build a 15-storey apartment complex near Upper Fort Garry, but the project was met with public backlash over concerns the site's history would be destroyed.

Spletzer says they eventually agreed to a deal involving former mayor Sam Katz to purchase land in the Broadway-Assiniboine area and build the high-rise there instead.

He says issues arose after discovering Manitoba Hydro lines buried underneath the land which equaled a costly removal and more delays.

"Now they're putting a park, a dog park beside it."



Crystal Properties at 300 Assiniboine Ave., whose developer is upset the city wants to put an off-leash dog park in Bonnycastle Park. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

COURT

Teen sentenced for making pro-terrorism comments online

A Manitoba teenager who pleaded guilty to counselling terrorism will spend no more time in custody, but will have to live under strict curfew conditions and wear an electronic monitoring device for more than two years.

The teen, who can't be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was 16 when he was charged with posting pro-terrorism comments on social media.

He had been in custody in Brandon since his arrest in

November 2015 and pleaded guilty last year to counselling the commission of an indictable offence for the benefit of a terrorist group.

Court was told the boy urged people to fight for Daesh and to "strike from within" if they could not go overseas. He also said he considered any government worker or building a legitimate target, Crown attorney Ian Mahon told court.

Provincial court Judge John Coombs sentenced the teen to six months deferred custody

to be followed by two years of probation that is to include curfews, electronic monitoring and a ban on using computers. The probation is also to include religious and other counselling directed by his probation supervisor.

Coombs said the boy's online threats and plans had to be taken seriously, but also appeared to be more theoretical than practical.

"It is also evident that his stated intentions had little connection to reality," Coombs told

court Monday.

"For instance, his plans involved the transportation of significant equipment. He had no access to a motor vehicle and had shown no interest in getting a driver's licence."

Court heard the teen talked of travelling overseas himself to fight in an effort called a Hijrah, although he did not have a passport, and had been in contact online with someone who identified themselves as an Islamic fighter.

The boy apologized at a court

hearing in November and said he was struggling with his identity when he made the online comments.

He addressed the court again briefly Monday.

"I accept responsibility for what I've done," he said.

Coombs noted the boy had no history of violent behaviour and has a support system that includes family members to help him during his probation.

The youth was taken into custody a few months after the arrest of Aaron Driver in Win-

niipeg, who had made pro-Daesh comments on social media.

Driver was placed under a peace bond intended to limit his activities and moved to southwestern Ontario. Despite the bond, Driver, who was 24, was able to obtain explosives, plan an apparent attack in a public area and film a martyrdom video.

Police were tipped off about his apparent plan by the FBI. He was killed last August in a confrontation with police as he got into a taxi. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'This is like a nightmare'

TRAGEDY
Children raising funds to bring parents' bodies home

 **Stephanie Taylor**
 Metro | Winnipeg

The three children of a Winnipeg couple who were killed in an ambulance collision while vacationing in Cuba are fundraising to help bring the bodies of their parents home and cover their funeral expenses.

Veronika Mayer says her parents, János and Róza Boda, were at a resort in Cayo Coco last Thursday when her mother had chest pains and needed medical treatment.

Mayer says the ambulance carrying her parents crashed during the trip to hospital.

The couple were in Cuba celebrating János' 50th birthday.

Global Affairs Canada says consular officials in Cuba are in contact with local authorities to gather additional information and assist the family.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to collect donations for the family.

Relatives expect the Bodas' remains to be returned to Canada in about two weeks.

Mayer had just finished an exam at the University of Manitoba last week when a Winnipeg police officer called her



János and Róza Boda in an image from the family's GoFundMe campaign. GOFUNDME

and delivered the tragic news about her parents.

"Basically he just told me what happened, and that they passed away in Cuba. I was just like 'is this a joke?'" said Mayer. "This stuff happens in movies, it doesn't happen to you."

Zoltan Csupak, János' cousin, said the family has been working with the Canadian embassy in Cuba.

"This is like a nightmare. All

"This stuff happens in movies, it doesn't happen to you."
 Veronika Mayer, reacting to deaths of her parents

we know is that there was the collision but we don't know any of the details and they died on site," he said.

Csupak said the family believes the crash was an accident and could have happened anywhere.

"I don't think there is any blame here. Something like this is unforeseen. Very tragic."

"Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the Canadian citizens who passed away in Cuba," said Global Affairs Canada spokeswoman Diana

Khaddaj in an email to CTV News Sunday.

Róza Boda, who was 51, was an elementary school teacher in Carman, south of Winnipeg, and an ambassador for the multicultural festival Folklorama who worked at the Hungarian pavilion. Her husband worked in the IT department of the Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation.

Martina Mayer's two teenage

siblings, Bettina and Martin Boda, are in high school and are being looked after by their sister and Csupak, who is their legal guardian.

Bettina, 16, said she will miss her parents' warmth and sense of humour.

"Her smile. Her laugh," she said tearfully. "My daddy, he was always able to make me laugh when I was going through a hard time."

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Lace up, it's time to skate

The first leg of the Red River Mutual Trail opened to skaters Monday with two kilometres of ice between the Osborne and Norwood Bridges. An ice resurfacers did the honours at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch the trail's skating season. New warming huts will be installed Jan. 28. Forks' manager of marketing and communications Chelsea Thomson said more will open by the weekend.



Smooth move

Quite appropriately, an ice resurfacers did the honours of cutting the ribbon to open the Red River Mutual Trail Monday.



Grace-full young lady

With a helping hand from her grandma, three-year-old Grace Klassen prepared to glide along the Red River Mutual Trail.

Hockey practice

Mike Frenz prepares to shoot on net during the first skate of the season on the Red River Mutual Trail.



Text and photos
JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI
FOR METRO



First time out

Three-year-old Paul Mondeh went for his first-ever skate at The Forks Monday, with his father nearby — watching progress.



Stick to it

Asher Coombs, 8, practising his stick handling moves at The Forks' canopy rink on Monday

Reopening goes swimmingly

RECREATION

Brian Bowman, mayor and one-time lifeguard, officiates event



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Long before he was mayor, a young Brian Bowman was a swim instructor and lifeguard who regularly enjoyed the Sherbrook Pool.

That was also years before an inspection turned up structural problems that forced it to close suddenly in 2012.

But on Monday, the mayor was all smiles while cutting a ribbon to reopen the 86-year-old pool following more than \$4.1 million in repairs.

Structural repairs to the roof, support beams and pool tank should extend the historic property's lifespan, while mechanical repairs to the water, heating and air systems have modernized the facility and got it up to snuff.

Construction was meant to take nine to 12 months after the 2012 closure, but reopening was delayed several times since then, and a few times since summer 2016.

But at the reopening and on Twitter, Bowman mused how as a swimmer, it's "great to see another quality pool facility in Winnipeg."

Area councillor Cindy Gilroy shared his enthusiasm for the newly renamed Kinsmen Sherbrook Pool — after the Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg donated \$1 million in funding.

"In a big city, what's really important is we have programs and facilities within communities that (are) easily accessible," Gilroy said.

"It's great to have the pools we have in other areas, but if they're far and hard to get to, city kids just aren't going to participate."



It's really vital to make sure we have accessibility.

Coun. Cindy Gilroy

"Having a pool in the inner city where kids can come, get there on their own, walk there, it's close to different transportation (options), it's really vital to make sure we have accessibility."

In addition to youth, Gilroy noted how newcomers immigrants and seniors will also benefit greatly from the facility being reopened.

She explained how a community group that was heavily involved in the pool's upkeep, Friends of Sherbrook Pool, will be working with the community to decide on future programming.

"They're going to be interested in trying to get people out to it," she said, adding the community-driven programming development is "going to be a model (the city) can look at" employing elsewhere too, if successful.

But without looking too far ahead, she said the pool is already making a splash with its first patrons, including some elderly former frequent visitors.

"They're very excited to be getting back in there," she said. "We're all very excited about it."



People enjoy some Senior Aqualite at the refurbished Sherbrook Pool. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO



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CULTURE

Art City recruiting pros for workshops



Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro|Winnipeg

A West End art centre is looking to recruit professional artists locally, nationally and internationally to teach workshops this programming year.

Art City's professional guest-artist series is accepting proposals for innovative projects that would appeal to "everyone from tiny tots all the way to older adults," said managing director Josh Ruth.

Past workshops have included silk-screen printmaking, sculpture building and DJing.

As part of Canada's 150th celebrations, Art City has earned some extra funding

to sponsor more guest artists.

"We want to bring in guest artists that reflect sort of the whole gamut of Canada's cultural identity," Ruth said, listing francophone, indigenous and newcomer artists among those he'd like to see represented. "We have an increasing amount of participants that are newcomers, including a lot of Syrian refugee families that are coming ... so we really want to bring in guest artists that can relate."

In 2016, Art City catered to 1,100 participants between its headquarters on Broadway and various outreach efforts in local community centres. All of its art programming is offered free and is open to all ages and experience levels.

CHARITY

'Might as well' run another marathon

A local ultra-runner braved the cold to warm hearts, finishing not one but two lengthy fundraising runs in Winnipeg's chilliest temperatures to benefit Siloam Mission.

Junel Malapad ran 100 kilometres to turn Boxing Day into Running Day while raising awareness and funds for the social agency. He then delivered the fruits of that labour along with Tim Hortons coffee during another 50-kilometre run on Sunday.

He said it was "difficult at some points," but he was fuelled by the energy of fellow runners and the \$2,235 he raised.

In addition to the money, Malapad, his family and friends helped serve around 500 cups of coffee at Siloam on Sunday.

\$2,235

Amount of money raised by Junel Malapad's efforts

"It went over really well," he said. "The community came together.... It reminded me of those commercials where people come running and they're smiling. It was a special time."

Malapad, who is training to run a 150-mile ultramarathon in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday this year, said he felt he "might as well help out in different ways" since he's doing such lengthy training runs anyway.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

IN BRIEF

Councillors to hear staff account for snow-clearing

Winnipeg councillors will get a chance to ask city staff what's what regarding snow clearing.

City staff are scheduled to brief the infrastructure and public works committee about the recent snow-removal job on Tuesday.

Since December, the city has been hit with three hefty snowfalls, making last month one of the snowiest on record. Many residents have complained about the quality of snow-clearing, especially on sidewalks.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

Police fear gangs behind trafficking of explosives

Winnipeg police are investigating trafficking and selling of emulsion explosives after finding a batch of "flex tubes with metal crimped ends" last Thursday.

Const. Jason Michalysen said the explosives "are intended for blasting rock in mining settings."

Police are looking at the possibility of gang involvement related to the explosives' trafficking, Michalysen said.

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/ FOR METRO



Kevin Chief, centre, attends a ceremony for the new cabinet at the Manitoba Legislature in 2014. The former Manitoba cabinet minister and popular New Democrat resigned on Monday to spend more time with his family. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beloved politician Kevin Chief resigns

NEW DEMOCRATS

Tories give no date for when they will call byelection

Manitoba's Progressive Conservative government gave little indication Monday on how soon it would call a byelection and provide the first test of Tory popularity since the party's decisive electoral victory last April.

Kevin Chief, arguably the most popular member of the Opposition NDP caucus, formally resigned his Point Douglas legis-

lature seat Monday, almost four weeks after announcing his plan to leave politics and spend more time with his family.

Premier Brian Pallister would not commit to calling a byelection in time to fill the seat before the legislature resumes March 1. He would only say the vote will be held sometime within six months, as required under law. "The constituents of Point Douglas can be assured their voices will be heard and respected with a byelection held within six months," Pallister said in an emailed statement.

The government used to have up to one year to fill a vacant seat, and the former NDP government

58%

Kevin Chief's popular vote percentage last year, the highest of any New Democrat

took almost a full year to fill ridings such as Morris in 2014 and The Pas in 2015. Pallister's government passed a law to reduce the maximum to six months shortly after taking office.

Point Douglas, a low-income area in inner-city Winnipeg, has only voted NDP. It was held for 21 years by former legislature

speaker George Hickes before he resigned and Chief replaced him in 2011. Chief easily retained the seat in last year's election, even as other NDP strongholds such as Thompson and Brandon East swung to the Tories.

Chief, who developed a strong reputation for staying in touch with his constituents, scored the highest popular vote percentage of any New Democrat at 58 per cent. He garnered almost three times as many votes as his closest competitor, Liberal Althea Guiboche.

The Tories ran a candidate who lived in Brandon, Marsha Street, who finished third behind Guiboche. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MILITARY

Urban Knights to protect homeless vets



Braeden Jones
Metro|Winnipeg

Every person who experiences homelessness in Winnipeg has a different story of the hardships that led to their dire circumstances, but many of them share a common thread: they served their country.

A new outreach effort launching this weekend — run by volunteer patrol group Urban Knights — will try to support vulnerable veterans

living on the street.

Based on national estimates, Winnipeg Urban Knights patrol commander Patrick March believes there may be "about 300 (veterans) potentially in Winnipeg on the street or in some kind of need."

March explained that the Royal Canadian Legion added "veterans outreach patrol" to their mandate at their last general meeting.

He said the goal is to find them, refer them to resources — such as the legion's "Leave the Streets Behind" program,

shelters or housing organizations — and help them get essential items such as clothing and blankets.

"A lot of these veterans on the street may have mental-health issues, like any other street person," March said. "These are people who served our country and for some reason or another fell through the cracks. We want to give them a hand up."

The Urban Knights will also try to help provide meals, showers and rides for homeless veterans on Remembrance

TAKE PART

The group is actively seeking recruits and can be reached at cap_able@live.com or at the Royal Canadian Legion, St. James Branch No. 4 on Portage Avenue.

Day to help them participate in one of the city's ceremonies.

March said patrols will launch this month in Toronto, Prince George and Winnipeg.

Trudeau gives his cabinet a shake

GOVERNMENT

PM to reshuffle team in wake of Trump presidency

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to give his year-old cabinet a facelift on Tuesday, shifting some weak ministers and promoting strong performers as his government braces for Donald Trump's imminent ascension to the U.S. presidency.

Sources tell The Canadian Press that the shuffle will involve at least six people.

Those expected to be moved include International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, who is believed likely to replace Stéphane Dion at Foreign Affairs.

Freeland, a former economics journalist with extensive contacts in the United States, is credited with deftly navigating through some eleventh-hour obstacles that threatened last fall to scupper the Canada-European Union free trade agreement — potentially valuable experience for deal-



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a news conference with his cabinet after they were sworn in at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa on Nov. 4, 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ing with the incoming Trump administration.

Trump, whose inauguration takes place Jan. 20, has vowed to adopt an unapologetically protectionist, America-first policy on trade, including reopening or even tearing up the

North American Free Trade Agreement.

Dion's tenure at Foreign Affairs has been a rocky one, marred by controversy over his approval of a \$15-billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. His prickly demeanour could

also be ill-suited to dealing with the unpredictable Trump, who has demonstrated a tendency to easily take offence.

Rumours have swirled for months that Dion was to be named ambassador to France but he has denied any interest

in the plum post.

News of the shuffle leaked out Monday, just as the Prime Minister's Office confirmed that Trudeau's two top aides, Katie Telford and Gerald Butts, have been meeting with some of Trump's senior advisers,

building bridges to the incoming administration.

Also believed to be in the shuffle mix are Status of Women Minister Patty Hajdu, seen as a strong performer, and Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef, widely criticized for her handling of Trudeau's promise to reform Canada's voting system.

Employment Minister Maryann Mihychuk is also expected to be moved.

Sources, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose details publicly, expect at least one new face in cabinet: François-Philippe Champagne, parliamentary secretary to Finance Minister Bill Morneau.

In his first cabinet of 30 ministers, Trudeau famously appointed an equal number of men and women "because it's 2015." That parity was upset last fall when Hunter Tootoo resigned from cabinet and the Liberal caucus to seek treatment for alcohol addiction following what he later admitted was an inappropriate relationship with a female staffer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDMONTON

Fraudsters turn copper into gold



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

About once a month, someone comes into Sarah Patterson-Robert's store trying to hawk fake gold.

"Usually I can tell really quick whether or not they know that it's fake and they're trying to rip me off, because they'll make a face when I say I have to test it, or they'll grab it and run," said Patterson-Robert, who's the manager of Edmonton Gold, a shop that buys and sells precious metals.

"Occasionally the person trying to sell it to me was ripped off, because they are just devastated when they're told it's fake."

Indeed, some Edmontonians got a painful reminder Monday that not all that glitters is gold.



Police are warning people in Edmonton not to buy gold unless it's been properly tested. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Police say about 20 merchants and individuals in the city have been swindled into buying bars of fake gold for \$300 to \$800 each.

Their actual value? Less than one dollar apiece.

"It's a significant loss of

money for them," said Edmonton Police Service Const. Robert Wellon, with the criminal investigation section.

Police found the bars were covered in real gold but made from 94 to 96 per cent copper after an investigation, following a similar scam that was uncovered in Winnipeg last month.

They recovered the bars which combined had a total of 220 grams of gold, which they peg at a total market value of \$10,000.

Patterson-Robert offers to test every piece of gold she sells in front of the customer, and said no one should buy from someone who isn't able to do that.

"There's a lot of people who believe that we're going to be going back to a gold-based system — they think that regular money isn't going to be worth anything," Patterson-Robert said.

Marineland facing more cruelty charges

Marineland was charged Monday with six counts of animal cruelty, but the company dismissed the allegations, accusing Ontario's animal welfare agency of acting on behalf of "a band of discredited activists."

The latest charges, filed by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, relate to a number of

land animals kept at the tourist attraction in Niagara Falls.

They include one count each of permitting elk, red deer and fallow deer to be in distress, and one count each of failing to provide the standards of care for those animals.

The agency's deputy chief inspector, Jennifer Bluhm, said the latest charges were part of

a "complex investigation" that began on Nov. 10, when the OSPCA received a complaint of alleged animal cruelty.

Later that month, the agency laid five counts of animal cruelty against Marineland that related to the treatment of peacocks, guinea hens and black bears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory MP calls for vacation investigation

Conservative leadership candidate Andrew Scheer has asked Parliament's ethics commissioner to decide whether Justin Trudeau's secret family vacation to the Aga Khan's private island was an improper "gift" that constitutes a conflict of interest for the prime minister.

In a letter dated Sunday, the

Saskatchewan MP pointed out that the Aga Khan's foundation in Canada has received tens of millions of dollars in international development contracts from the federal government, as well as funds for the organization's headquarters in Ottawa. Scheer wrote that the family vacation was a "private gift" from the bil-

lionaire religious leader that may have breached the Conflict of Interest Act.

Fellow Tory leadership hopeful Kellie Leitch also called for an investigation on Twitter.

"The prime minister of Canada must be held to the highest standard," Scheer said in a statement. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

From son-in-law to senior adviser

President-elect Donald Trump's influential son-in-law Jared Kushner will join him in the White House as a senior adviser, transition officials said Monday, putting the young real estate executive in position to exert broad sway over both domestic and foreign policy, particularly Middle East issues and trade negotiations.

Trump has come to rely heavily on Kushner, who is married to the president-elect's daughter Ivanka. Since the election, Kushner has been one of the transition team's main liaisons to foreign governments, communicating with Israeli officials and meeting last week with Britain's foreign minister. He's also huddled with congressional leaders and helped interview Cabinet candidates.

His eligibility could be challenged. But Kushner lawyer Jamie Gorelick argued Monday that a 1967 law meant to bar government officials from hiring relatives does not apply to the West Wing. She cited a later congressional measure to allow the president "unfettered" and "sweeping" authority in hiring staff.

Kushner, who will not be taking a salary, will resign as CEO of his family's real estate company and as publisher of the New York Observer, as well as divest "substantial assets," Gorelick said. She said Kushner will recuse himself "from particular matters that would have a direct and predictable effect on his remaining financial interests." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jared Kushner
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Obama nets high approval, but he didn't unite nation

UNITED STATES

Over half of Americans hold favourable view of president

More Americans feel Barack Obama's presidency divided the country than feel it brought people together, a new poll shows. Yet he leaves office held in high esteem by a solid majority.

Eight years after Obama's historic election, just 27 per cent see the U.S. as more united as a result of his presidency, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for

Public Affairs Research poll conducted after the 2016 election. Far more — 44 per cent — say it's more divided.

Those figures underscore one of the key contradictions of Obama's presidency. By and large, Americans like him. Yet, aside from the big "Obamacare" health care overhaul, he has been unable to translate that approval into congressional majorities to fulfil many of his goals.

"It's one of the few regrets of my presidency — that the rancour and suspicion between the parties has gotten worse instead of better," Obama said last January in his final State of the Union address.

Still, 57 per cent say they view Obama favourably, putting him way ahead of his predecessor, George W. Bush, and on par with Bill Clinton at the end of their two terms. Clinton had the same 57 per cent but Bush just 40, according to Gallup polling at the time. Bush's father fared better, with 62 per cent viewing him favourably at the end of his time in office.

Just over half say Obama's presidency has been great or good. Thirty-seven per cent view him unfavourably. Did he keep his promises? He did not, in the minds of 2 of 3 Americans, though 44 per cent say he tried.

There's frustration even

among many longtime Obama supporters about the lack of movement on major priorities such as overhauling the nation's immigration laws, enacting gun control measures and shutting the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"He acted very presidential, but he just couldn't get things done," said Dale Plath, a retired sales manager from Mason City, Iowa. He said he voted for Obama the first time, voted against him the second, and this year, Plath said: "I voted for change, frankly" — in the form of Donald Trump.

Obama leaves office more popular than he was just a few years ago. In December 2014,

the month after Democrats lost control of the Senate, just 41 per cent said they viewed him favourably in an AP-GfK poll.

His complicated legacy comes into sharper focus when it comes to race. Nearly 8 in 10 African-Americans view the nation's first black president favourably, but far fewer see his presidency as having yielded the type of profound changes for black Americans that many had hoped.

Just 43 per cent of African-Americans say Obama made things better for black people, while roughly half say they see no difference. Six per cent say Obama has made things worse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



They're definitely trying hard to flirt and court. They are not particularly successful.

Bart Kempnaers



An ale pectoral sandpiper on the tundra near Barrow, Alaska, calls out in the futile hope of attracting a female. BART KEMPENAEERS/MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR ORNITHOLOGY VIA AP

WILDLIFE

'Failed Don Juans' won't stop looking for a mate

You fly more than 100 miles for love. You get rejected. You fly another 100 miles. Another rejection. And another.

That's the high-flying but futile sex life of the male pectoral sandpiper looking for love in northernmost Alaska, according to a new study.

Some males are more persistent than others. Researchers tracked one desperate small shorebird that logged more than 8,100 miles (13,045 kilometres) in two dozen different hook-up attempts over a frenetic four weeks.

"They're definitely trying hard to flirt and court," said biologist Bart Kempnaers of the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany. "They are not particularly successful most of them. Failed Don Juans mostly."

Sandpipers migrate from South America to breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra in the summer. The males tend to be sex crazy during this time because females are only fertile for a few weeks. They flit all over the place, trying hard to seal the deal with loud throaty

hoots as many times as possible. The problem for them is that the females only mate once or twice a season.

"Copulations are incredibly rare," Kempnaers said. "The males need to try and try and keep at it."

Researchers tracked the activity of 100 male birds during a breeding season. It is "the most extreme example" of promiscuity in animals seen yet, said Kempnaers, who led the study published Monday in the journal *Nature*.

The males mostly forgo sleep

as they embark on non-stop flights in search of a mate, getting by on snatches of shut-eye lasting several seconds at a time, Kempnaers said.

The average bird flies about 110 miles (178 kilometres) between mating attempts. In a breeding season, the males log on average about 1,900 miles (3,060 kilometres), a bit farther than flying from Los Angeles to Chicago.

Sandpipers can fly 40 hours non-stop around 37 mph (60 kph), but these long trips often end up in rejections. Those that

successfully mate don't have a role in raising the offspring, Kempnaers said.

George Divoky, a biologist at the scientific group Friends of Cooper Island that monitors the changing Alaskan Arctic, said in general Arctic shorebirds are shrinking in population.

He called the study on this species of bird impressive, adding that it "will make me think differently about every pectoral sandpiper I see during the summer."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Snake on a plane: Flight halted in serpent spotting

Once Samuel L. Jackson appeared in Dubai, it really was only a matter of time before the snake on a plane turned up. Dubai-based airline Emirates said that one of its flights from Muscat, Oman, to Dubai was cancelled after a snake was spotted. Passengers hadn't yet boarded the Boeing 777. Jackson, who starred in the thriller "Snakes on a Plane," was in Dubai last month for the Dubai International Film Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Port of Montreal is expecting 110,000 cruise passengers and crew this summer as the city celebrates its 375th birthday and Canada's sesquicentennial. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada hot for cruises

TOURISM

Port cities are anticipating a surge in visitors

Canadian port cities expect to get an economic boost this summer from an influx of cruise visitors attracted by a low loonie and the country's 150th birthday celebrations.

Ports across Atlantic Canada, Quebec and British Columbia are anticipating a surge in cruise traffic.

"Canada is hot right now," Pierre Bellerose of Montreal's tourism board said in an interview.

With the opening in May of a \$78-million refurbished passenger terminal, the Port

of Montreal anticipates the number of cruise passengers and crew members will be up 28 per cent from last year to 110,000 as the city celebrates its 375th birthday and Canada's sesquicentennial.

"The Port of Montreal is at the heart of those celebrations," said port CEO Sylvie Vachon.

"We know that maritime trade has played an important role in the development of the city and the entire country."

The extra passengers are expected to generate an additional \$5.5 million in local spending, raising the total this year to about \$30 million, says Tourisme Montreal.

Ports in Atlantic Canada are also anticipating double-digit increases in 2017 above the nearly 600,000 passengers that landed last year, said Brian

WHY THEY COME

The low value of the Canadian dollar encouraged cruise lines a couple of years ago to add routes this summer.

Canada's birthday celebrations, the Tall Ships gathering in Halifax from July 29 to Aug. 1 and increased tourism efforts across the region are also contributing factors

Webb, executive director of Cruise Atlantic Canada.

"It's looking great across the board, so every single port looks to be seeing increases," he said from Nova Scotia.

Newfoundland and Labrador is expecting a record

cruise season with an expected 99,266 passenger and crew visits, up from 50,448 passenger and crew visits in 2016.

"We're definitely excited about the increases because it will mean increased economic activity," Webb added.

While in Canadian ports, cruise ship passengers spent almost \$262 million or nearly \$150 per person in 2012, according to the latest study conducted by the industry. Average spending was highest in B.C. ports, which accounted for 54 per cent of the more than two million passenger visits and 77 per cent of spending.

The Port of Halifax, largest in Atlantic Canada, welcomed 238,000 cruise passengers in 2016, up seven per cent from the prior year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENTREPRENEUR

Mini machine is super-cool



Colin McNeil
Metro | Toronto

It could be the most Canadian invention ever: a miniaturized, do-it-yourself ice resurfacing machine.

Made with backyard rink hobbyists and small communities that can't afford full-sized ice resurfacing machines in mind, Chris Yenna's creation is a compact, portable version of the ice cleaner we're accustomed to seeing at NHL-sized rinks.

"The end result is the same," the Calgary entrepreneur told Metro. "I just basically made everything smaller."

While even relatively simple ice cleaners can run you \$10,000 or more, Yenna said his 'Ice NV' portable ice resurfacer would cost significantly less than the



Chris Yenna's 'Ice NV' portable ice resurfacer. CONTRIBUTED

big, traditional ice cleaners, which retail around \$100,000.

He was hesitant to quote prices, with his creation still in the prototype stage. "I just kind of Frankensteined it," he said. "I didn't prepare myself for this (attention) in the beginning."

No stranger to the outdoor

ice game, the Facebook page for his creation, Porta Ice Ltd., proclaims Yenna has "15+ years of ice maintenance experience and has installed and maintained portable ice rinks in over 40 countries and five continents worldwide."

MORE ON THE METRO APP

INVESTING

Firm buys into pot testing lab

Ottawa-based cannabis investment firm CannaRoyalty Corp. says it's acquiring a 20 per cent stake in Anandia Laboratories Inc., a company that specializes in marijuana testing, in a deal valued at \$4 million.

There are currently seven licensed cannabis producers in Canada who are working with the Vancouver-based cannabis biotechnology company to test their products. A report by the federally appointed task force on marijuana highlighted the importance of testing cannabis products to ensure they're safe for consumption.

In addition to testing, Anandia Labs also develops cannabis strains for medical use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EMMA TEITEL ON THE RIGHT TO DISCONNECT



At this very moment France is not in the business of building on the tools of mass communication; it's in the business of restricting them.

Despite a reputation for standoffishness (especially with tourists) the French have invented some of the most important mass communication tools in human history. These include the papermaking machine, the Bic Cristal ballpoint pen (who doesn't have one of those?), and the bane of high school principals everywhere: the mobile software that enables us to share photos on our cell-phones en masse, i.e. the DNA of the nude selfie.

This history is interesting and odd, because at this very moment France is not in the business of building on the tools of mass communication; it's in the business of restricting them.

I'm referring to the country's new "right to disconnect law" that went into effect on New Year's Day (along with a series of other labour-related regulations): a law that makes it illegal for employers to intrude on employees' private time via email after working hours.

More specifically, the law requires that companies with 50 or more staff members work with unions and employees to devise a policy that prevents the intrusion of office emails into workers' leisure time. The "Right to Disconnect" policy comes on the heels of a French study about the scourge of so-called "info-obesity": the suffering health of French workers who are constantly connected to their emails

Technology's pervasiveness is as much the fault of Internet-obsessed employees as inconsiderate bosses.

outside working hours. Cur-tail that connection, argues French Labour Minister Myriam El Khomri, and everybody — bosses and charges alike — will be better off.

So it goes that the nation that invented the software that keeps Kim Kardashian's selfie empire afloat has taken a vow of technological temperance.

The question now for those of us who live outside of that nation is should we follow suit? Should we do as the French do, and demand: "No longer will our

ward reviving the fast fading line between work and play (a line that is likely to go extinct without government intervention.)

But unfortunately, the law is also a Band-Aid solution to a much deeper problem. Excessive emailing isn't the prime enemy of leisure time in the modern work world. We are the enemy. That is, our addiction to technology is the enemy.

It's an addiction that motivates 87 per cent of U.S. workers, according to an American survey from 2015,

lated away, because its pervasiveness is as much the fault of Internet-obsessed employees as it is inconsiderate bosses. (I check my email almost every day when I am on vacation not because I think my employer is emailing me, but because I am addicted to my phone.)

In fact, one could argue that a prohibition against after-hours emailing is almost useless if it doesn't address the job pressures exacerbated by social media. Email, after all, is only one of many online communication tools available to employers. If you happen to work in public relations, or advertising, the line between personal and professional is often even blurrier; many people in these fields are required to post content to social media on behalf of their organizations — a duty that never sleeps and is rife with personal risk. Make a mistake in a rush, and your career and reputation could be in the gutter.

If your job involves social media — and even if it doesn't — it isn't unlikely that you follow your bosses and colleagues on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. If this is the case, so long as you are logged onto to one of those platforms you are effectively never out of reach of your employer.

The truth, then, is that the disappearing line between work and leisure time cannot be restored by legislation alone. It will be restored only if — in addition to the passage of progressive labour laws — we decide to commit to the deeply personal work required to kick any powerful addiction.

Emma Teitel is a columnist for the Toronto Star.



Now that France has passed a law that makes it illegal for employers to intrude on employees' private time via email outside working hours, the question for the rest of us is: Should we follow suit? TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

vacations be cut short by uncharitable bosses who refuse to respect the authority of our Out of Office auto-replies?" Our answer, judging by fawning headlines and editorials heralding the right to disconnect, is a resounding yes. As a rule, liberal North Americans love to heap praise on progressive European social policy, and it appears this case is no exception.

And why should it be? The law, after all, is a step in the right direction to-

to check their emails outside work hours everyday, and provokes the average smartphone user, according to a study from 2013, to check Facebook 14 times a day. It's an addiction, according to another study, from the U.K., that triggers university students who are separated from their technology for 24 hours to suffer withdrawal symptoms similar to those exhibited by heavy cigarette smokers.

It's an addiction, in other words, that cannot be legis-

It's time we started shovelling sidewalks

INSIDE THE PERIMETER

Shannon VanRaes



Straining under the weight of each shovelful, somehow sweating through my parka while simultaneously freezing, I hear a small voice. Am I dreaming? Is it a magical snow clearing vision brought on by exhaustion and despair?

Apparently not. It's actually a young boy, tiny plastic shovel in hand as he aspires to help an older man clear the sidewalk.

"How come not everybody shovels?" he asks.

"Because people are lazy," the man responds.

More than a week after the last storm I still struggle to make it down residential sidewalks, either because the snow remains entirely untouched by human engineering or because it was so compacted that clearing efforts yielded poor results. For folks with physical limitations the sidewalks are simply impassable.

At city hall, questions about the number of snow clearing machines, budget lines and total accumulation swirl like a mid-winter squall. How can snow clearing be improved? And how can it be done without increasing taxes or short-changing other city services?

My fellow Winnipeggers the answer is right in front of our frosty faces — the time has come to clear our own sidewalks.

This is not a popular idea, I understand that. Mayor and council understands it too. No one wants to be remembered as the politician who reduced city services. Telling constituents to suck it up and shovel isn't the kind of move that increases one's odds of re-election.

But how long can we continue to spite our collective face by cutting off our own noses? Winnipeggers bemoan the condition of residential sidewalks, but so many then greet the suggesting of clearing 20 or 30 feet of snow with the cry, "But I pay taxes!"

Yes, we all pay taxes.

And those tax dollars would be better spent if city crews could spend more time clearing sidewalks and active transit routes impacted by graters and loaders, than trundling down every residential sidewalk in the city.

It's really not an outrageous suggestion. Winnipeg residents are already responsible for maintaining boulevard areas adjacent to their homes in the summer months, and major cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Saskatoon and even the parts of Toronto require property owners to remove snow and ice.

Those cities also make accommodations for citizens physically unable to clear snow, such as the Snow Angels program in Calgary, while plenty of private businesses offer to meet clearing deadlines for individuals who'd rather pay someone else to do the work. This is not an insurmountable problem, it just takes a little imagination and some co-operation.

For a city that prides itself on not just surviving -40C temperatures, but thriving in them, this should be the obvious solution. Winnipeggers will eat dinner on frozen rivers, cycle year round, skate in any wind chill and line-up in the cold to stand in the cold at Festival du Voyageur.

Helping each other out by shovelling sidewalks is just one more winter activity we must find a way to warm up to.

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Why it seems like everyone is sick

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto



The sounds of hacking, sneezing and sniffing fill the halls of hospitals, workplaces and schools across Canada.

We're in the thick of a whopper sickness season, for two main reasons:

One: There's a particularly nasty flu — and a lot of it — going around. Two: Everything else is going around too.

Only a fraction of those who come down with flu-like symptoms are tested, so the real case count is certainly higher, but in the last two weeks of December, 3,177 people tested positive for flu in Canada. That's a ten-fold increase over the 298 cases diagnosed in the same period in 2015.

Blame it on H3N2, said Dr. Allison McGeer, a flu researcher and director of infection control at Toronto's Mt. Sinai hospital. That's the main strain of influenza going around this year. And although the flu shot developed to fight it seems to be a good match, it might not stay that way for long, because H3N2 mutates really, really quickly.

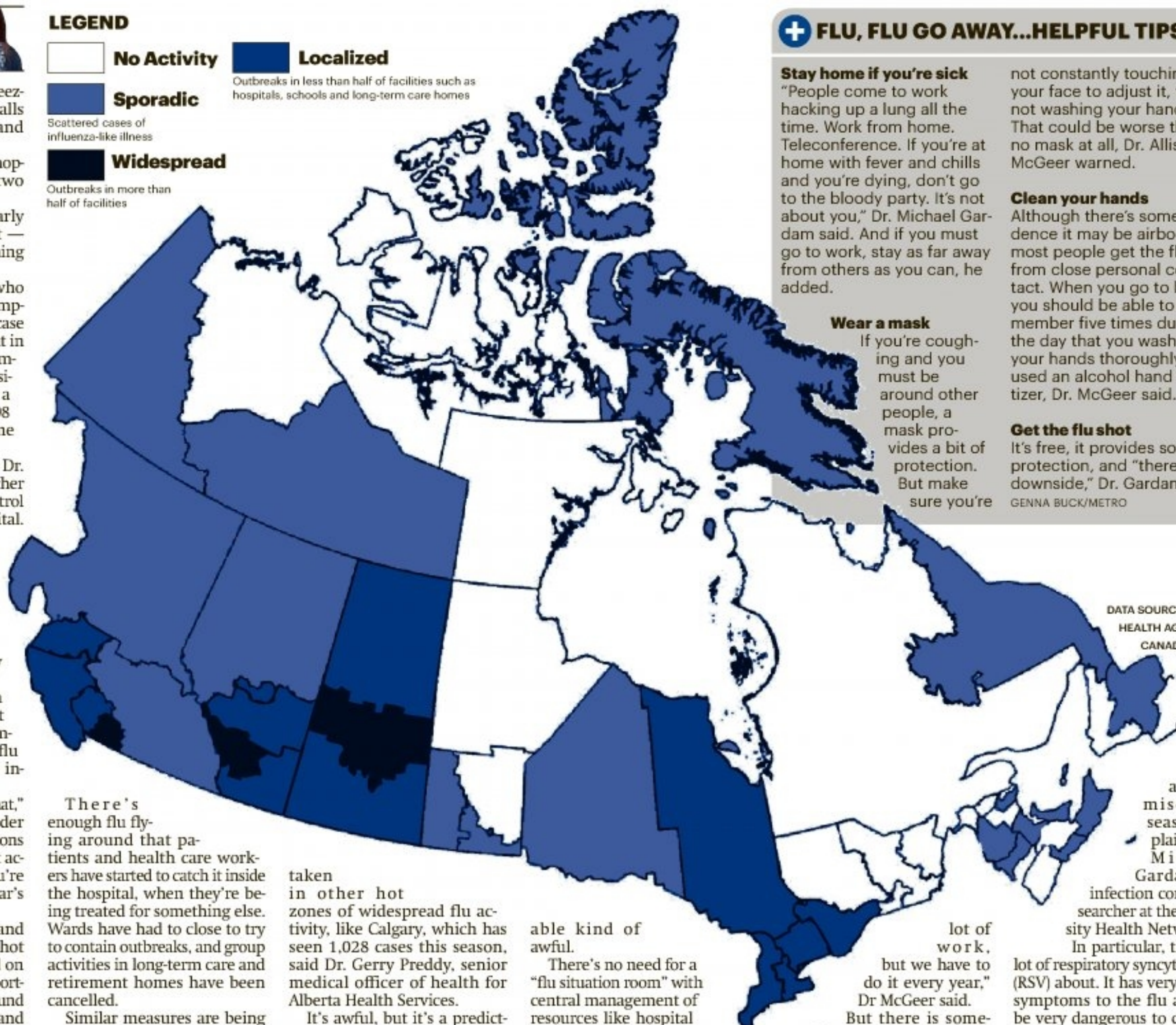
There's more: Through illness and vaccination, most people accumulate some immunity over the years to flu strains such as H1N1 and influenza B.

"With H3N2 it's not like that," McGeer said. "I've seen older people get two H3N2 infections six months apart. You don't accumulate immunity, so you're really dependent on this year's vaccine."

So H3N2 hits the old and frail the hardest. The flu shot also doesn't work very well on them, making it doubly important for the healthy adults around them — family members and health-care workers — to get their shots, McGeer said.

Although public health people around the country are extremely busy at the moment (Dr. McGeer's pager went off twice during our 30-minute chat), she was quick to say it's not a crisis.

LEGEND



DATA SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

There's enough flu flying around that patients and health care workers have started to catch it inside the hospital, when they're being treated for something else. Wards have had to close to try to contain outbreaks, and group activities in long-term care and retirement homes have been cancelled.

Similar measures are being

taken in other hot zones of widespread flu activity, like Calgary, which has seen 1,028 cases this season, said Dr. Gerry Preddy, senior medical officer of health for Alberta Health Services.

It's awful, but it's a predict-

able kind of awful.

There's no need for a "flu situation room" with central management of resources like hospital beds, vaccines and anti-viral medications, like there was during the swine flu pandemic of 2009 and SARS in 2003.

"That's for situations that are beyond our capacity — this is just a flu season. There is a need for a lot of communication. It is a

lot of work, but we have to do it every year," Dr. McGeer said.

But there is something that makes this year different: other, non-flu respiratory viruses the Public Health Agency of Canada keeps track of are peaking at the exact same time as flu.

A hockey-stick-like spike in the various respiratory viruses began before Christmas, making

not constantly touching your face to adjust it, then not washing your hands: That could be worse than no mask at all, Dr. Allison McGeer warned.

Clean your hands

Although there's some evidence it may be airborne, most people get the flu from close personal contact. When you go to bed you should be able to remember five times during the day that you washed your hands thoroughly or used an alcohol hand sanitizer, Dr. McGeer said.

Get the flu shot

It's free, it provides some protection, and "there's no downside," Dr. Gardam said.

GENNA BUCK/METRO

+ FLU, FLU GO AWAY...HELPFUL TIPS

Stay home if you're sick

"People come to work hacking up a lung all the time. Work from home. Teleconference. If you're at home with fever and chills and you're dying, don't go to the bloody party. It's not about you," Dr. Michael Gardam said. And if you must go to work, stay as far away from others as you can, he added.

Wear a mask

If you're coughing and you must be around other people, a mask provides a bit of protection. But make sure you're

for an exceptionally miserable season, explained Dr. Michael Gardam, an infection control researcher at the University Health Network.

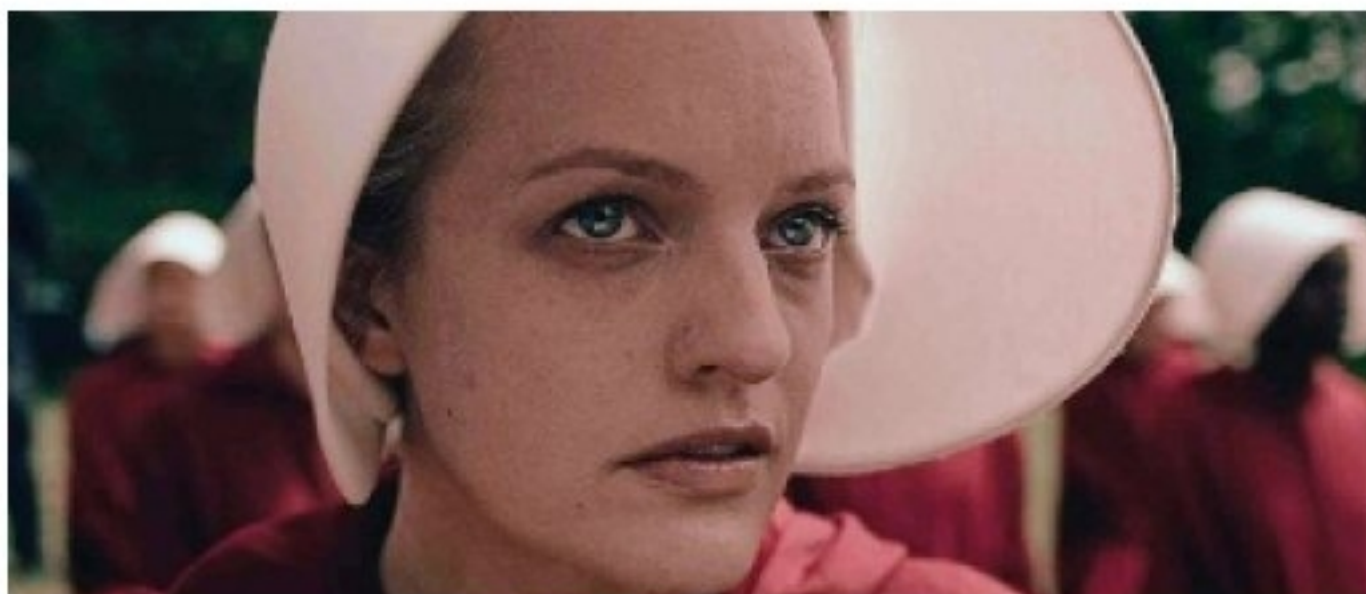
In particular, there's a lot of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) about. It has very similar symptoms to the flu and can be very dangerous to children with breathing problems and premature babies.

"My guess is we're two-thirds of the way through the peak of this," Gardam said. "It's not just flu. I want you to get your flu shot, but we can't rely on your flu shot as your only control measure."



If you're at home with fever and chills and you're dying, don't go to the bloody party.

Dr Michael Gardam



Elisabeth Moss plays the role of Offred in the latest adaptation of Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale*, shot in Toronto by streaming service Hulu. CONTRIBUTED

A HANDMAID'S TALE

Moss finds fresh meaning in Atwood's timeless power tale

Elisabeth Moss has long been prominent on the television front lines in the fight against sexism.

As secretary Peggy Olson, she rose through the ranks of misogynistic executives during the *Mad Men* era. But her character in Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale* takes the glass ceiling to another level.

In the Canadian author's celebrated novel, Offred lives in a fundamentalist society that was once the United States. Gilead is faced with a declining birth rate and women are treated as property of the state.

The name "Offred" literally means "Of Fred," the commander to whom she is bound in servitude. The tale is once again about the imbalance of power in society, this time told through the broader lens of speculative literature.

"It's incredible that it has such meaning today and it was written more than 30 years ago," Moss says.

Moss read Atwood's work years ago and has since re-read it several times "till it was dog-eared" to get insight into her character. That included meeting with Atwood herself in Toronto where the series by streaming service Hulu is shot. Co-stars include Alexis Bledel (*Gilmore Girls*), Samira Wiley (*Orange Is the New Black*) and Joseph Fiennes (*Shakespeare in Love*).

"We talked a bit. I asked her a few questions as to what she was thinking when she wrote it," said Moss. "But the funny thing is, it's all there in the book. If we do a scene from the book, I always read it. It's

so intimate the way she wrote it. My greatest reference and the closest I can get to Margaret Atwood is in that book."

Atwood didn't give her any specific advice, said Moss. "That's what's so cool about her. She has given us total confidence and freedom. It's allowed us to believe in ourselves."

Moss is riding high with two critical Emmy-worthy series this year. Director Jane Campion's thriller *Top of the Lake* returns this year for a second season (Moss was nominated for an Emmy for the first). But *A Handmaid's Tale* could be her most challenging work yet.

Adapting the show to TV is something of a risk. The high-profile but joyless 1990 screen adaptation, drafted by Harold Pinter and starring Natasha Richardson and Faye Dunaway, was a flop, earning \$5 million at the box office and costing \$13 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



She has given us total confidence and freedom.

Elisabeth Moss, on Margaret Atwood's help



JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Our ambassador for empathy delivers

THE SHOW: The 2017 Golden Globe Awards (NBC/CTV)
THE MOMENT: Meryl's speech

There was only one moment that mattered. Accepting her lifetime achievement award, Meryl Streep stood on stage. She held notes, but she didn't need them.

She said that everyone in Hollywood — in America — came from somewhere else. Then she cut to the quick: "An actor's only job is to enter the lives of people who are different from us and let you feel what that feels like," she said. "But there was one performance this year that stunned me.... There's nothing good about it. But it did its job."

"It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter, someone he outranked in privilege and power and the capacity to fight back." She finished by calling on everyone to support the principled press, "because we're going to need them going forward and they'll need us to safeguard the truth."

Throughout the broadcast, background noise had buzzed from the bar. But now Streep's raw voice was the only sound. You could feel the room holding its breath.

It's impossible to do justice to how gutsy and thrilling Streep's decision was to make this speech. Most honorees speak about



The background buzz at the Golden Globes fell silent as Meryl Streep delivered her stirring speech. CONTRIBUTED

their careers. Streep's been honoured so much, she's past that. This is her lifetime achievement: to have earned the ability to hold the world still for five minutes to say something necessary.

She showed all of us whose hearts are broken by Trumpism a way forward. Not through anger, but through truth. She's our ambassador for empathy.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

FACT CHECK

Rating Streep's records

While "overrated" is an opinion, Streep holds the record for the most Academy Award nominations of any actor. She has earned 19 Oscar nods and three wins, as well as a record 29 Golden Globe nominations and eight wins, and two Emmy Awards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUNDING OFF ON STREEP TRUMP & CO. REACT TO SPEECH

Hollywood's leading lady found herself in the firing line when the United States' president-elect woke up Monday morning and took aim at her Golden Globes address.

Meryl Streep, one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood, doesn't know me but attacked last night at the Golden Globes. She is a Hillary flunky who lost big.

Donald Trump



This Meryl Streep speech is why Trump won. And if people in Hollywood don't start recognizing why and how — you will help him get re-elected.

Senator John McCain's daughter, Meghan McCain, a Fox News host.

I'm a lifelong fan of your work but also a lifelong martial artist. Please be my guest at the LA Forum on January 21st and you will see that mixed martial arts is truly artistic.

Scott Coker, the head of Bellator MMA, invites Streep to an event after her MMA jibe in the speech



Now I hope that Meryl Streep will use her power and influence to ensure that TV and movies include people with disabilities with accurate and positive portrayals.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of RespectAbility, a nonprofit advocating for people with disabilities

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Adults travelling with mom and dad

TRAVEL TRENDS

Boom in trips for grownup clans, just pack your patience

Katrina Clarke
Torstar News Service

Wedge in the middle seat between my parents on a flight to Ireland, I turned to my mum and asked to take a look at her guide book.

"Oh now you want to know what we're doing," my mum teased. My parents had just planned our family vacation — our first as a family of adults.

It was my Vancouver-based sister, Carolyn, who proposed the idea. She is 26; I am 29. And while the four of us travelled frequently as a family when my sister and I were little — holidaying in New Zealand, Israel and Mexico — our travelling foursome splintered as we got older and busier and added significant others to the mix.

I was cautiously optimistic about this adult Clarkes-only trip and braced myself for inevitable bickering and personality clashes.

But we so rarely spend time together in Canada, let alone a week travelling, so this seemed like a great chance to reconnect.

The idea, it turns out, is part of a trend travel companies have noticed: more parents are going on trips with their grown children.

"With families scattered

all over the place ... it's getting harder and harder to get everyone together," said Lois Farley, product manager with Great Canadian Travel Group. "(Travel) is a way to keep the family together."

G Adventures, a global adventure travel company based in Toronto, also saw a 12 per cent increase in families travelling with adult kids between 2015 to 2016, while bookings for families with young kids over the same period increased by only 5 per cent, said spokesperson Tim Chan.

As for our family vacation destination, I fantasized about kayaking in South America or skiing in Japan. But my parents wanted a country that was close, safe and easy to explore. I gave up my hopes for a far-flung location and we all agreed on going to family friendly Ireland in November. I'd been there once before, but mostly to explore Dublin pubs, so I was excited to see the pastoral lands — the emerald parts of the Emerald Isle.

It was from there we left the planning to the parents.

It's not that my sister or I are incapable of planning vacations but this trip snapped us back into a pre-2000s family dynamic. We let our parents take the wheel. Literally, my dad drove us around Ireland.

For most of the time, the dad-in-charge and mum-navigating dynamic worked and I was happiest relaxing and documenting scenery on Snapchat. But there were moments of directional indecision when I missed my adult independence



Katrina Clarke and her family, Glenn, Deb and Carolyn, take a selfie at a cliff along the Dingle Peninsula on the Atlantic coast of Ireland. KATRINA CLARKE

and wanted to grab the wheel or bark: "Wrong way!"

We landed in Dublin and spent the next few days travelling north, visiting a prehistoric tomb in Brú na Bóinne, then southwest, touring the crum-

bling Rock of Cashel. It was in rainy, cold Cashel that I had my epiphany: one of the best parts of travelling as an adult is being able to drink alongside my parents. Quaffing pints of Guinness in a pub, I was more

peer than teen.

From Cashel we drove further west to Killarney's Land-Before-Time-esque national park — where we found happy middle ground between being a family with children and be-

ing a family with, well, adult children. My sister and I bit our tongues when our parents obsessed over GPS directions and our parents said nothing when we dozed in the car, missing the take-your-breath-away scenery.

After Killarney, we wound through green pastures to the Dingle Peninsula, walked along Inch Beach and snapped selfies at the edge of cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Looking back, if there was one take-away from the trip, it was that being an adult and acting like one are two different things. I didn't always succeed in the latter.

For instance, after Donald Trump's election, I initiated downwards-spiralling, impassioned political arguments, my patience wore thin during long drives, and the more time we spent together, the more pronounced everyone's idiosyncrasies became to me; my ex-military dad demanding early wake-up calls, my mum needing to check out every stone carving and my energetic sister wanting next to no downtime.

But our new family dynamic was fun.

We burst into laughter when the GPS spontaneously started talking in the hotel room, triggering our nerves after a long day of driving; my sister and I ribbed my parents when they wanted to be at the airport hours earlier than necessary, and we permitted ourselves a chuckle or two when my dad cracked corny jokes.

"You wouldn't want to be a guy named Ken there," he said as we drove past Kilkenny.

FAMILY

The cost of children

Expecting a baby? Start putting money in your savings account

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the estimated cost of raising a child from birth through age 17 is \$233,610, (\$14,000 US annually). That's the average for a middle-income couple with two children. The estimate is based on 2015 numbers, so a baby born this year is likely to cost even more. It's a 3 per cent increase from the prior year.

Housing is expensive

Up to a third of the total cost is housing, accounting for 26 to 33 per cent of the total expense of raising a child. USDA comes up with those numbers by calculating the average cost of an additional bedroom — an approach the department says is probably conservative, because it doesn't account for those families who pay more to live in communities that have better schools or other amenities for children.

Urban vs. Rural

The cost of raising a child varies in different regions. Middle-income, married-couple families in the urban Northeast spent the most (\$253,770), followed by those the urban West (\$235,140).

Child care on the rise

After housing, child care, education and food are the highest costs for families. Education costs have sharply risen since 1960, when USDA estimated that those expenses were around 2 per cent of child-rearing expenses.

More kids, lower costs

Families with three or more children spend 24 per cent less per child. USDA says that's because children often share bedrooms in bigger families, clothing and toys are handed down and food can be purchased in larger and more economical packages. In contrast, one-child households spend an average of 27 per cent more. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Manny Ramirez has agreed to terms with the Kochi Fighting Dogs of Japan's independent Shikoku Island League

metr SPORTS

IN BRIEF

Packers' versatility will be needed if Nelson is out

Wide receivers for the Green Bay Packers are trained to handle any position. That versatility will come in handy for the Packers if Jordy Nelson misses the divisional-round playoff game against the Dallas Cowboys this weekend due to a rib injury.

Nelson will sit out practice midweek to focus on rehab for the injury, though McCarthy said his top receiver may be cleared to play in Dallas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It's time for him to grow.

New York Giants general manager Jerry Reese on Odell Beckham Jr., pictured, who allegedly punched a hole in a wall outside the Giants' locker room at Lambeau Field after Sunday night's 38-13 loss to the Packers.

Manning and Spurrier set for college football HOF

Peyton Manning and his Southeastern Conference nemesis, former Florida coach Steve Spurrier, will go into the College Football Hall of Fame together.

The rest of the new Hall of Fame class of 13 players and coaches announced Monday includes Southern California Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart, San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk and Danny Ford. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ronaldo wins FIFA's best player award for 4th time

Cristiano Ronaldo received FIFA's best player award for the fourth time on Monday, after Portugal and Real Madrid won both major European titles in 2016.

He beat runner-up and great rival Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann to complete a sweep of top individual awards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Hellebuyck perfect for his third shutout of campaign

Connor Hellebuyck made 28 saves for his third shutout of the season as the Winnipeg Jets blanked the Calgary Flames 2-0 on Monday.

Dustin Byfuglien and Blake Wheeler scored for the Jets (20-20-3).

Chad Johnson turned aside 25 shots for the Flames (22-19-2).

Hellebuyck has five shutouts in his two-year NHL career.

It was the first game for the Jets without rookie star Patrik Laine, who's out indefinitely with a concussion suffered in last Saturday's 4-3 loss to Buffalo.

Drew Stafford took Laine's spot on the top line with centre Mark Scheifele and right-winger Nikolaj Ehlers, a trio that spent some time together last season.

Stafford and Ehlers assisted on Byfuglien's goal at 10:21 of the first period.

The big defenceman skated around Flames captain Mark Giordano to fire off a shot past Johnson's glove for his sixth goal of the season.

Ehlers extended his point streak to five games with the assist. During that stretch he has five goals and two assists, and in his past 10 games he has 13 points.

Calgary outshot the Jets 9-6 after the opening period, but



Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck is run over by Flames right-winger Garnet Hathaway as he's pushed by defenceman Jacob Trouba on Monday night. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg had the 18-15 edge after the scoreless second.

Flames rookie Matthew Tkachuk took a big hit from Byfuglien in the second, but withstood the blow.

The young forward — his father, Keith, was a star for the Jets before they moved to Arizona in 1996 — ended a nine-game point streak, the longest

MONDAY At MTS Centre



by an NHL rookie this season. He had one goal and nine assists during that span.

Wheeler scored his 12th goal of the season after stretching his stick out to intercept a pass between Calgary defencemen Dennis Wideman and T.J. Brodie in their own zone.

Wheeler went in alone straight at Johnson and put a low shot by him on the glove side to make it 2-0 at 3:16 of the third period.

Hellebuyck preserved the shutout when he gloved a shot by Michael Frolik with 12 seconds remaining.

Both teams finished 0-for-3 on the power play.

The Flames return home for two games, starting Wednesday against San Jose. Winnipeg hosts Montreal the same night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOCKEY NEWS BITES

Career year

Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman is on pace for a career-high 72 points. Since Dec. 1 the blue-liner has 20 points in 18 games while averaging about 25 minutes for the Lightning.

Schneider's struggles

Cory Schneider, pictured, entered this season bettered only by Carey Price in save percentage since being traded from Vancouver to New Jersey in the summer of 2013.



THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 30-year-old has fallen off in this season with the Devils. Schneider sits 24th in save percentage (.908) among the 35 goalies with at least 20 starts.

Out west

An unlikely six-game win streak has pushed the Vancouver Canucks into the playoff mix, currently one point back of the Los Angeles Kings for the final wild-card spot out west.

NHL

Is 700 club within Ovi's grasp?

Only seven players in the 100-year history of the NHL have ever scored 700 goals, and Alex Ovechkin may join them one day.

Ovechkin recently climbed past Stan Mikita on the all-time goals list and pulled even with the great Maurice (Rocket) Richard for 29th place on Monday.

The 30-year-old captain of the Washington Capitals, with 544 career goals, could reach 24th in NHL history by season's end — passing Mike Modano's 561 goals — if he maintains his current scoring pace.

Barring catastrophe, Ovech-

kin will soon become only the 20th player ever to reach 600 goals — perhaps next season — but can he get to that elusive 700-club, which includes only Wayne Gretzky (894), Gordie Howe (801), Jaromir Jagr (756), Brett Hull (741), Marcel Dionne (731), Phil Esposito (717), and Mike Gartner (708)? Ovechkin is on pace for 38 goals this sea-



Alex Ovechkin GETTY IMAGES

son, which would leave him only 137 shy of 700 with four years left on his current contract with the Capitals. If he played only those four years Ovechkin would need to average 34-35 goals to get to 700.

Five more years and that average dips below 30, at which point Ovechkin will be in his late 30s. Can he play that long and still remain productive?

Maybe, though not everyone has the moves like Jagr, the last player to reach 700. Jagr reached 27 goals last season at age 44.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Pasta e Fagioli



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Is it a soup? Is it a pasta? Who cares when it's hearty and healthy.

Ready in 35 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion diced
- 3 cloves of garlic minced
- 1 or 3 stalks of celery chopped
- 3 medium carrots sliced thinly
- 1 yellow or green zucchini, halved and then sliced
- 6 mushrooms cleaned and sliced
- 1 14 oz. can of cannellini beans
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 x 28 oz. can drained plum tomatoes
- 1 cup whole wheat tubetti pasta
- thyme and rosemary
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan

Directions

1. Sauté onion, garlic and celery in olive oil till soft, 3 minutes. Add carrots and cook 2 minutes before adding zucchini and mushrooms. Let soften before adding the stock.
2. Drain can of cannellini beans and scoop out 1/3 cup and mash roughly. Put mashed and unmashed beans into pot and stir. Cover and simmer 5 minutes.
3. Drain tomatoes and add, breaking up with spoon. Simmer 5 minutes.
4. Add cup of tubetti, a good pinch of thyme and rosemary and cook for 10 minutes. Add some salt and pepper to taste.

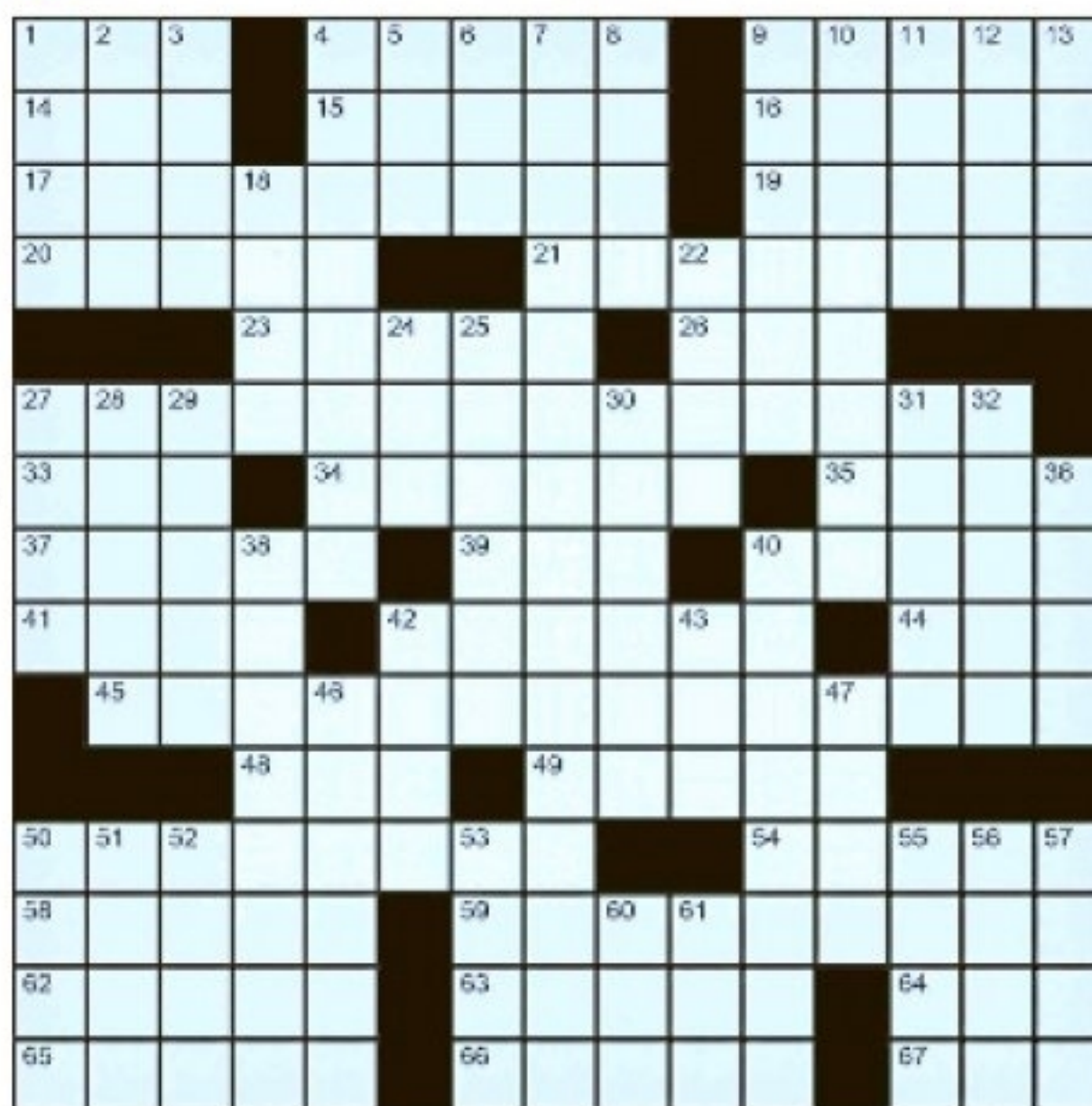
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Texter's pal
4. A belt is worn around one
9. "American __ Warrior" (NBC's obstacle course show)
14. Ghost's communication...
15. When a long lunch might end: 2 wds.
16. The Hunter constellation
17. Sweetly soothe a sour situation
19. Jabbed
20. Celebrity chef Mario Batali always wears orange ones
21. Close-ivity
23. Belonging to the "Good Times" disco group
26. Plant seeds
27. Vancouver's great Spirit of the West: 3 wds.
33. Ms. MacGraw
34. Glenn Gould played them
35. Street
37. Belonging to NYC's legendary punk club
39. "Rhoda" production co.
40. Stephen King's fictional Maine town
41. Charlie Chaplin's last wife
42. 11:55am or 2:55pm ...in two other words
44. Culpa's partner
45. Futuristic comic series by Brian K. Vaughan and Steve Skroce (with colouring by Matt Hollingsworth) about



- Canadian freedom fighters: 4 wds.
48. French possessive
49. Novel's I'll opening
50. Get less noisy: 2 wds.
54. "Don't mind __"

58. Send __ (Communicate via Hallmark)
59. Trailblazer
62. Not like The Fonz
63. Rent
64. Niblets holder
65. Soddy stuff
66. Laundromat

- appliance
67. Timecard abbr.

DOWN

1. Pear variety
2. Bobby Orr's number
3. Island off of Newfoundland
4. Navy vessels

5. Airport tower [acronym]
6. Figure skater Midori
7. Couch potato's retro meal: 3 wds.
8. Books-carrying bag
9. "I've got this, don't worry": 2 wds.

10. Pots and kettles and pans
11. Ancient winged goddess
12. Smokey __ Cafe (Leiber & Stoller musical revue)
13. Pluses
18. Invoice abbr.
22. Inquires
24. Here: French
25. Stuff tightly: 2 wds.
27. Prefix to 'phony' (Harsh noise)
28. Arm joint
29. Line: French
30. "Get real!": 2 wds.
31. __ Jean, "Candle in the Wind" lady
32. One saying "I bet you can't..."
36. Pair
38. "Inglourious __" (2009)
40. Fictional setting in Saskatchewan of "Corner Gas": 2 wds.
42. Burkina __ (Nation in West Africa)
43. Mtn. blaster
46. 26th Pres. Mr. Roosevelt's
47. __ (Edmonton sch.)
50. Hungry feeling
51. Frosting applicator
52. Prefix to 'normal'
53. Untamed
55. Pining
56. House entrance
57. Spheres
60. Negative vote
61. 'Lact' suffix

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
One thing is certain today: You will be surprised by bosses and authority figures. That's because parents, VIPs and teachers will do something that is completely unpredictable.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Sudden opportunities to travel might fall into your lap today. Alternatively, plans for travel might be cancelled, delayed or changed. Yes, it's a crapshoot.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Double-check all details concerning inheritances, shared property, insurance issues and debt, because something unexpected will affect these areas.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A partner or close friend will surprise you today. This person might demand more freedom in the relationship, or he or she might make an unusual suggestion. Think twice before you respond.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Equipment at work might break down today. This is a classic day for computer breakdowns. Something unexpected will create delays and detours on the job.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an accident-prone day for your kids, so be extra vigilant. Know where they are at all times. Social events might be suddenly cancelled or changed in some way.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Something will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down. Minor breakages could Someone unexpected might appear at your door.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an accident-prone day for your sign, so be extra careful. Be mindful of everything you say and do. Keep your eyes open!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Something unexpected might affect your finances and possessions today. You might find money, or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss or theft.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel rebellious today. Even if you're not aware of it, you probably are impatient. Of course, it's hard to control anything that happens today, because it's all so unpredictable!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You feel restless today. You feel like you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Don't act until you get all the information about what's going on.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend might surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone new who is avant-garde or unusual in some way.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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